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Agenda for Examiner Interview
8 JUN 2011, 2:30 pm
Examiner Yoshitoshi Takeuchi, Remsen Building, 571-270-5828,
Application No. 10/591,632; JMYT-370US
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I. Invention

a. Claims 1-8, 10, 15, 16, 18, and 21-27 are the pending claims.

i. Claim 1 - Method claim ... for manufacturing a catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter comprising a plurality of channels, which method comprising the steps of (a) reducing the pressure in a pore structure of the channel walls and [then] (b) contacting a surface of the evacuated channel walls with a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or a precursor thereof wherein the liquid permeates the pore structure of the evacuated channel walls.
Wherein clause makes explicit in the claim two limitations: wherein reducing the pressure in the pore structure of the wall-flow filter **(1) occurs prior** to contacting the surface of the evacuated channel walls with the liquid; and the **(2) plurality of channels in the wall-flow filter are plugged at an inlet end or an outlet end of the wall-flow filter.**

ii. Claim 18 - Apparatus claim ... for use in manufacturing a catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter having filter walls, wherein said filter walls define a plurality of channels and have a pore structure, the plurality of channels in the wall-flow filter are plugged at an inlet end or an outlet end of the wall-flow filter, said apparatus comprising **(1)means for sealingly isolating the plurality of channels of the ceramic wall-flow filter from the surrounding atmosphere, (2) means for reducing pressure in the isolated channels to below the surrounding atmospheric pressure thereby to establish a vacuum in the pore structure of the filter walls to provide isolated and evacuated channels, (3) at least one reservoir for holding a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or a precursor thereof** and **(4) means for dosing the isolated and evacuated channels with a pre-determined quantity of the liquid.**

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iii. Claim 26 - Apparatus claim ... for use in manufacturing a catalysed ceramic wall-flow filter having filter walls, wherein said filter walls define a plurality of channels and have a pore structure, the plurality of channels in the wall-flow filter are plugged at an inlet end or an outlet end of the wall-flow filter, said apparatus comprising **(1) a pressurisable container having a sealable closure for receiving the ceramic wall-flow filter, (2) a vacuum pump to reduce pressure in the isolated channels to below the surrounding atmospheric pressure thereby to establish a vacuum in the pore structure of the filter walls to provide isolated and evacuated channels, (3) at least one reservoir for holding a liquid containing at least one catalyst component or a precursor thereof**, and **(4) a pump for dosing the isolated and evacuated channels with a pre-determined quantity of the liquid.**

b. Key Features of Present Invention:

i. (1) Using a pre-formed wall-flow filter (i.e., plugged at inlet or outlet ends); and (2) reducing the pressure in the pore structure of the wall-flow filter *prior to* contacting the surface of the evacuated channel walls with the liquid.

ii. Discuss with Examiner the Background and avoidance of caking - Noting the difference between Figs. 2 and 3. Caking shown in Fig. 2 undesirably occurs using the process of EP 0 766 993. See page 2, line 28 through page 3, line; page 10, lines 9-11; and page 12, lines 10-20

iii. The present invention achieves a homogenous dispersion of coating throughout the walls of the filter. Fig. 3 and page 12, lines 12-20.

iv. Also, note page 3, lines 19-11, which states, "A key feature of our method is that the pre-formed wall-flow filter is catalysed, i.e., no labor intensive end-plugging step is required after the filter substrate is catalyzed...."

v. As stated at page 4, lines 1-4,
"An advantage of the present invention is that, by removing the air from the pore structure of the ceramic wall-flow filter prior to